

EDUCATION DEPARTMENT[281]

Adopted and Filed

Pursuant to the authority of Iowa Code section 256.7(5), the State Board of Education hereby amends Chapter 97, "Supplementary Weighting," Iowa Administrative Code.

The amendments conform to 2011 Iowa Acts, House File 645, section 15. A regional academy may serve students in grades seven and eight. A new provision of statute requires school districts that participate in a regional academy to agree on how the funds received under rule 281—97.4(257) shall be used and to submit the agreement to the Department for approval.

An agencywide waiver provision is provided in 281—Chapter 4.

Notice of Intended Action was published in the December 14, 2011, Iowa Administrative Bulletin as **ARC 9908B**. Public comments were allowed until 4:30 p.m. on January 3, 2012. A public hearing was held on that date and no persons attended. No written or oral comments were received. These amendments are identical to those published under Notice.

After analysis and review of this rule making, no impact on jobs has been found.

These amendments are intended to implement Iowa Code section 261E.9 as amended by 2011 Iowa Acts, House File 645, section 15.

These amendments shall become effective March 28, 2012.

The following amendments are adopted.

ITEM 1. Amend rule **281—97.1(257)**, definition of "Regional academy," as follows:

"*Regional academy*" shall mean an educational program established by a school district to which multiple school districts send students in grades 9 7 through 12. The curriculum shall include advanced-level courses and, in addition, may include career-technical courses, Internet-based courses, and coursework delivered via the ICN. Regional academy courses shall not qualify as concurrent enrollment courses and do not generate any postsecondary credit. School districts participating in regional academies are eligible for supplementary weighting as provided in Iowa Code section 257.11, subsection 2.

ITEM 2. Amend paragraph **97.4(1)"c"** as follows:

c. The grade levels include one or more grades ~~nine~~ seven through twelve.

ITEM 3. Adopt the following **new** paragraph **97.4(1)"h"**:

h. The school districts participating in a regional academy shall enter into an agreement on how the funding generated by the supplementary weighting received shall be used and shall submit the agreement, as well as a copy of the minutes of meetings of the local school district boards of directors in which the boards approved the agreement, to the department for approval by October 1 of the year in which the districts intend to request supplementary weighting for the regional academy.

[Filed 1/31/12, effective 3/28/12]

[Published 2/22/12]

EDITOR'S NOTE: For replacement pages for IAC, see IAC Supplement 2/22/12.